

System Configuration Team Meeting

November 10, 2005

1. Greetings and Introductions.

Today's meeting of the System Configuration Team was chaired by Bill Hevlin. The following is a summary (not a verbatim transcript) of the topics discussed and decisions made at this meeting. Anyone with questions or comments about these notes should contact Kathy Ceballos at 503-230-5420.

2. FFDRWG Updates and Scheduled Meetings.

A Corps representative said that, at its most recent meeting, the Portland District FFDRWG discussed the following topics:

- B2 FGE Improvements: the \$12.8 million VBS contract was awarded on September 15. Phase I, to be completed this year, will include units 12 and 13; next year, units 11, 14 and 15 will be completed.
- The Dalles Behavioral Guidance Structure and Spillway Improvements: at FFDRWG's October 6 meeting, it became apparent that the support of NMFS, CRITFC and Oregon for this project had diminished. However, the Corps and BPA are not in agreement as to whether or not to stop work on the project at this point. The corps wants to complete the DDR, and intends to reinstate the spillway improvement study.
- The Dalles Spillway Wire Ropes: New ropes have been ordered for 12 spill bays. Bays 1-6 will be operational by April 10. Bays 7-9 will be operational by May 15. There may be some hours during the flow peak when it may not be possible to achieve 40% spill.
- John Day Configuration and Operation Plan: the target date for the 90% report is November 29.
- B2 Corner Collector PIT Detection: The low bid contractor withdrew, so the cost of this project increased from \$2.6 million to \$3.2 million.
- Bonneville Survival: At a special FFDRWG meeting on October 24, the Corps was asked to model various operation and research alternatives, and is doing so. The Corps is also developing a SOW for a 2006 survival study of an alternative spill operation.
- Sea Lions: The Corps will be getting a purchase order for Airmar acoustic deterrent devices, to be deployed at the fishway entrances, next week. The sea lion exclusion device design is also progressing. There is some concern that the SLEDS may not be constructed by February; the Corps is working internally to

catch up.

Marvin Shuttters briefed the SCT on recent Walla Walla District FFDRWG activities; the group last met on November 4-5. Among the topics the group discussed at this meeting:

- Spring and summer RSW testing protocols at Lower Granite
- 2006 Little Goose study objectives
- Lower Monumental RSW – IDFG, NMFS and BPA recommended going forward with installation by 2007; USFWS and CRITFC did not recommend going forward at this time, because they feel more information is needed before a choice can be made between Bays 7 and 8
- Ice Harbor: the group discussed 2006 study objectives
- Lower Granite juvenile fish facility replacement – it was agreed that the Corps will produce a decision document in 2006, which will determine features and general layout
- PIT detection at Lower Monumental JBS
- Lower Granite adult trap upgrades – construction to be completed by March 1, 2007
- McNary modernization
- McNary north shore PIT detection
- McNary surface bypass

Shuttters said a special Walla Walla District FFDRWG meeting, to discuss various study-related issues, will be convened on November 30.

3. SRWG Update and Upcoming Meetings.

It was noted that there were two Portland District SRWG meetings in October, both held on October 27. The first meeting was a check-in on final proposal solicitation; the second was held to further develop the objectives for the load following one-pager. The SRWG annual review will be held next week in Walla Walla; an SRWG briefing on final proposals is scheduled for January 18.

The group also devoted a lengthy discussion to the upcoming Snake River fall chinook survival study; it was noted that a special meeting will be held on this topic on November 21.

4. Lower Monumental RSW.

Hevlin reminded the group that, at the last SCT meeting, there was an extensive discussion of whether or not to proceed with construction of a Bay 8 RSW at Lower Monumental Dam in 2007. At that meeting, it was agreed that the Corps would make a final decision on this project, and would report that decision today. A Corps representative said the Corps has tentatively decided to move forward with the Bay 8

RSW at Lower Monumental, to be installed by the spring of 2007, although a final decision has not yet been made. If it goes forward, the contract for this project will be advertised on December 12; it will be awarded on March 9, 2006, which basically gives the contractor a year to construct it.

Ron Boyce said Oregon is still discussing the Lower Monumental RSW issue internally; it is a very important issue to us, he said, and we would still like an opportunity to weigh in. The group discussed whether or not further testing is needed before making a decision about Bay 7 vs. Bay 8; Hevlin observed that it is possible that the performance of those two bays may be so close that even multiple years of testing might not be able to tease out a significant difference in survival or tailrace egress conditions. No specific SCT recommendations were developed at today's meeting regarding what sort of testing may be appropriate at Lower Monumental in the spring of 2006.

After a few minutes of further discussion, no SCT members expressed an intention to elevate this issue to the IT. Hevlin said that he will be updating the IT on the status of the Lower Monumental RSW decision during their December 1st meeting.

5. Continued Discussion of the FY'06 CRFM Program.

John Kranda said Congress has approved \$85 million in FY'06 CRFM funding; the good news is that no savings and slippage will be deducted this year, so we will have the full \$85 million to work with. The bad news is, there is language in the appropriation directing the Corps to fully fund all contracts at award. Previously, the COE only funded the part of the work that would be accomplished during the current fiscal year. An example, where this will be important is the Lower Monumental RSW. In past years the approximately \$15 million construction contract would be spread across 2 or 3 years of appropriations; however, now all \$15 million comes from the year's appropriation when the contract is awarded. – in other words, Congress is trying to stop contracts that will require out year funding. Obviously, there are some CRFM projects that cannot be designed, built and installed in a single year, said Kranda; we're hoping it may be possible to negotiate exemptions for certain projects, but at this point, we just don't know whether or not that will be possible.

Kranda then distributed the most recent draft of the FY'06 CRFM measures worksheet, dated November 10, 2005. He noted that the \$85 million cutoff line would now fall around line-item 64, Lower Granite flow deflectors and divider wall evaluations.

The group devoted a few minutes of discussion to the FY'06 program, offering a series of clarifying questions and comments. Ultimately, Kranda said he will produce a new version of the spreadsheet, incorporating the comments received at today's meeting, for distribution at the December 8 SCT meeting.

6. Next SCT Meeting Date.

The next meeting of the System Configuration Team was set for December 8, 2005. Meeting summary prepared by Jeff Kuechle, BPA contractor.